

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /062 W

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R 111530Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7437

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS ATTENTION TO REPORTS OF PAKISTANI
ARMS PURCHASE PLANS

1. LEW SIMONS' INTERVIEWS IN PAKISTAN WITH TIKKA KHAN AND BHUTTO PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON POST MARCH 10 GOT WIDE COVERAGE IN INDIAN PRESS MARCH 11. REFERENCES TO F-5S, M-60 TANKS, SUBMARINES, ARTILLERY, HAWK AND RED-EYE MISSILES WERE MADE AS WELL AS Z KKA KHAN'S OBSERVATION THAT THE US PROBABLY WOULDN'T SELL ALL THESE THINGS TO PAKISTAN. THE STORY WAS CARRIED UNDER HEADLINES SUCH AS "PINDI TO PURCHASE US SUBMARINES AND JETS", "PAK HUNT FOR PETRO-DOLLARS, LETHAL ARMS", "SUBMARINES IN PAK ARMS SHOPPING LIST", AND "PINDI SEEKSCFAB LOANS FOR LETHAL ARMS".

2. BHUTTO'S INTERVIEW WITH UPI FILED MARCH 8 WAS ALSO GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE UNDER LEADS SUCH AS "BHUTTO: US NOT ONLY SOURCE OF ARMS" AND "PINDI MAY BUY ARMS ELSEWHERE TOO".

BHUTTO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "PAKISTAN WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK TO THE US FOR THE BULK OF ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT

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NEEDS" BUT THAT PAKISTAN "WAS NOT AT ALL INTERESTED IN

ENTERING INTO AN ARMS RACE WITH INDIA".

3. AN AFP STORY MARCH 7, ALSO WIDELY REPORTED, NOTED THAT "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" CLAIMED IRAN WAS TO SUPPLY AT LEAST 50 F-5S TO PAKISTAN IN THE EXT FEW MONTHS, AS WELL AS THAT 100 M-48S, FORMERLY TURKISH, WERE BEING OVERHAULED IN IRAN FOR PAKISTAN.

4. COMMENT: WE NOTE THESE SIMPLY THAT DEPARTMENT MAY BE AWARE OF TYPES OF STORIES WHICH ARE WORKING ON INDIAN PUBLIC OPINION (AND GOVERNMENT OPINION).
SAXBE

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